

UNIT 1

Present Continuous - Present Simple

Present Continuous



Bob and Claire **aren't working** today. They're on holiday. They're **having** a nice time.
 What is **Bob doing** now?
 He is **taking** a picture of Claire.

We form the present continuous with the auxiliary verb **to be** and the main verb with the **-ing** suffix. The main verb with the **-ing** suffix is the same in all persons.

Affirmative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am	'm	} reading.
He/She/It	is	's	
You/We/They	are	're	

Interrogative

Am	I	} reading?
Is	he/she/it	
Are	you/we/they	

Negative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am not	'm not	} reading.
He/She/It	is not	isn't	
You/We/They	are not	aren't	

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Verbs ending in **-e**, drop the **-e** and take the **-ing** suffix.
dance - dancing but see - seeing
- ◆ Verbs ending in **one stressed vowel** between **two consonants**, double the last consonant and take the **-ing** suffix.
run - running get - getting
but open - opening
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-l**, double the **-l** and take the **-ing** suffix.
travel - travelling
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ie**, drop the **-ie** and take **-y + -ing**.
lie - lying die - dying

1 Add **-ing** to the verbs and put them in the correct boxes.

talk, dive, swim, shop, lie, study, mend, write, try, take, cook, stop, sleep, die, sit

+ ing	-ie → y + ing
talking	
-l → ing	double consonant + ing

2 Fill in the gaps with the **present continuous**.

- We*are/re tidying*..... (tidy) the garden.
- I (not/do) my homework.
- (Dad/paint) the living-room?
- He (run).
- The girls (play) with their dolls.
- John (study) at university.
- Helen and I (make) dinner.
- (you/listen) to the radio?

Present Continuous - Present Simple

Use

We use the present continuous:

- ◆ for actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.

He **is reading** a book right now.



- ◆ for temporary actions happening around now, but not at the actual moment of speaking.

She **is practising** for a concert these days. (She's not practising right now; she's resting.)



- ◆ with 'always' for actions happening too often and about which we wish to express our annoyance or criticism.

'You're **always interrupting** me!' (annoyance)



- ◆ for fixed arrangements in the near future.

He **is flying** to Milan in an hour. (It's been arranged.)



Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present continuous include: *now, at the moment, these days, at present, always, tonight, still, etc.*

3

Look at the picture and put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous.



Four people 1) *...are sitting...* (sit) at a table. They are in a restaurant. They 2) (have) dinner. They 3) (wear) smart clothes. The man 4) (wear) a suit. The parents 5) (smile) at each other and they 6) (talk). The children 7) (listen). The girl 8) (drink) some Coke. The boy 9) (eat) some bread. They 10) (enjoy) their meal.

Short Answers

In short answers we use only **Yes** or **No**, the subject pronoun and the auxiliary verb *is/isn't* or *are/aren't*. We do not repeat the whole question.

Are you leaving?	Yes, I am/we are.	No, I'm not/we aren't.
Is he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it isn't.
Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

4

Look at the picture in ex. 3 again. In pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the example.

- the parents / wear / sports clothes?
SA: *Are the parents wearing sports clothes?*
SB: *No, they aren't. They're wearing smart clothes.*
- the four people / have / dinner?
- the children / talk?
- the girl / drink / some juice?
- the boy / eat / some ice-cream?

Present Simple



Richard Taylor and Sarah Perkins **work** in the same office.
 What time **do they start** work?
 Sarah **arrives** at work at 9 o'clock but Richard **doesn't get** to the office until 10 o'clock.

We form the present simple with the **subject** (i.e. the subject pronoun or noun) and the **main verb**. We usually add an **-s** to the **third person singular** in the affirmative. In the interrogative and negative forms, we use the auxiliary verb **do/don't** with I, you, we, they and **does/doesn't** with he, she and it. We do not add an **-s** to the main verb when it appears with **does/doesn't**.

Affirmative			
I/You/We/They		read.	
He/She/It		reads.	
Interrogative			
Do I/you/we/they	}	read?	
Does he/she/it			
Negative			
	Long form	Short form	
I/You/We/They	do not	don't	} read.
He/She/It	does not	doesn't	

Spelling Rules

- ◆ Most verbs take **-s** in the third person singular.
I read - he reads
- ◆ Verbs ending in **-ss, -sh, -ch, -x** and **-o**, take **-es**.
I kiss - he kisses, I brush - he brushes, I teach - he teaches, I fix - he fixes, I go - he goes
- ◆ Verbs ending in a **consonant + y**, drop the **-y** and take **-ies**.
I try - he tries, I fly - he flies
- ◆ Verbs ending in a **vowel + y**, simply take **-s**.
I buy - he buys

5 Write the third person singular of the verbs in the list in the correct box.

dance, finish, study, open, mix, pray, put, miss
 like, dry, do, catch, wash, say, cry, copy, watch
 play, pass, begin

-s	-es	-ies
dances	finishes	studies
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

6 Fill in the gaps with the present simple.

- A: Where*is*..... (be) Jack?
B: At school.
- A: (you/come) here very often?
B: Yes, every evening.
- A: I (play) tennis in the summer.
B: Really? So do I!
- A: We (leave) the house at 6:30 every morning.
B: That's very early.
- A: Sam (not/know) anything about the party.
B: I know. It's a surprise.

Present Continuous - Present Simple

Pronunciation

In the present simple the suffix of the third person singular is pronounced:

- ◆ / s / when the verb ends in a / f /, / k /, / p / or / t / sound.
laughs, drinks, sleeps, hates
- ◆ / ɪz / when the verb ends in a / s /, / ʃ /, / tʃ /, / dʒ / or / z / sound.
misses, wishes, matches, arranges, rises
- ◆ / z / when the verb ends in any other sound.
dreams, stays, begins, stands, saves

Use

The present simple is used for:

- ◆ permanent states.
- ◆ repeated actions or daily routines (often with adverbs of frequency such as: always, never, usually, etc.).



Mr Gibson **is** a businessman. He **lives** in New York. (permanent state)
He **usually starts** work at 9 am. (daily routine)
He **often stays** at the office until late in the evening. (daily routine)

- ◆ general truths or laws of nature.

The moon **moves** round the earth.



- ◆ programmes or timetables (trains, buses, etc.).

The bus **leaves** in ten minutes.



7

Write the third person singular of the verbs in the correct box, then read them aloud.

laugh, kiss, read, look, speak, kick, put, catch, drive, brush, ride, walk, open, jump, play, know, cough, see, dance, close, help, listen, watch, wash, travel, write, lose, eat, rain, change

/ s /	<i>laughs,</i>
/ ɪz /	<i>kisses,</i>
/ z /	<i>reads,</i>



Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present simple include: *usually, always* (adverbs of frequency), etc., *every day/week/month/year, etc., on Mondays/Tuesdays, etc., in the morning/afternoon/evening, at night/the weekend, etc.*

8

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present continuous or the present simple.

- 1 A: Where's James?
B: He **is/ 's playing**... (play) football in the garden right now.
- 2 A: Bill (dance) very well.
B: Yes, he's a good singer, too.
- 3 A: Lucy is very busy.
B: Yes. She (work) very hard these days.
- 4 A: What (you/do) on Saturdays?
B: I clean the house and go shopping.
- 5 A: Why (you/pack) your suitcase?
B: Because I (fly) to Paris tomorrow morning.
- 6 A: Fred (not/know) how to swim.
B: That's because he's only three.
- 7 A: Max looks very fit.
B: Yes. He (take) a lot of exercise these days.

Adverbs of Frequency

◆ We often use adverbs of frequency with the present simple. They show us how often something happens. They answer the question **How often...?**

e.g. *How often do you visit your aunt? I **always/usually/sometimes** visit her on Sundays.*

Adverbs of Frequency	
always	100%
usually	75%
often	50%
sometimes	25%
rarely/seldom	10%
never	0%

◆ Adverbs of frequency go before the main verbs (*visit, drink, etc.*), but after the verb *to be* and after auxiliary verbs such as *can, do, must, etc.*

e.g. *Peter **often** visits his grandparents at the weekend.*
*Sharon **never** drinks coffee.*
*Jim **is always** on time for work.*
*Bob **can never** wake up early in the morning.*
*Do you **often** go to the cinema at the weekend?*
*Paul **doesn't usually** eat out on Sundays.*

◆ The adverbs **rarely, seldom** and **never** have a negative meaning and they are never used with the word **not**.

e.g. *He **rarely** goes to the cinema.*
*I **never** take sugar in my coffee.*

9 Rewrite the sentences putting the adverb in brackets in the correct place.

- You must brush your teeth twice a day. (always)
*You must **always** brush your teeth twice a day.*
- Is he on time for work? (always)

- Karen has cereal for breakfast. (sometimes)

- Paul doesn't listen to music in the evening. (usually)

- The children help with the housework. (rarely)

- Must you play your music so loud? (always)

- Sheila can park her car properly. (never)

10 Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

Charlie Foster 1) ...*works*... (work) at a bakery. He 2) (always/get up) very early because he 3) (start work at four o'clock every morning. Charlie 4) (not/be) at work this morning. At the moment he 5) (pack) a suitcase because he 6) (go) on holiday today. Charlie 7) (sing) to himself. He's very happy. Right now he 8) (look for) his aeroplane tickets. Where are they? He can't find them. There they are; under his bed! Charlie 9) (call) a taxi now. His plane 10) (leave) in an hour. Where 11) (Charlie/go)? To Hawaii!

Short Answers

Do you get up early?	Yes, I/we do.	No, I/we don't.
Does he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it does.	No, he/she/it doesn't.
Do they ...?	Yes, they do.	No, they don't.

Note: In short answers, adverbs of frequency always go before the auxiliary verb.

e.g. *Do you watch horror films on TV?*
*Yes, I **often** do. / No, I **never** do.*

11 Look at the text in ex. 10 again, then, in pairs, ask and answer questions about Charlie Foster, as in the examples.

- Charlie / work / at a bank?
 SA: *Does Charlie work at a bank?*
 SB: *No, he doesn't. He works at a bakery.*
- Charlie / pack / a suitcase / at the moment?
 SA: *Is Charlie packing a suitcase at the moment?*
 SB: *Yes, he is.*
- Charlie / start work / at 4 o'clock every morning?
- Charlie / go on holiday / next week?
- Charlie / sing to himself?
- Charlie / look for his tickets / right now?
- the plane / leave / in an hour?
- Charlie / go / Tahiti?

Present Simple versus Present Continuous

Present Simple

- The present simple is used for permanent states, for repeated actions and daily routines.



Claire Bryan **works** as a secretary. She **starts** work at eight o'clock every day. She **types** Mr Moore's letters.

Present Continuous

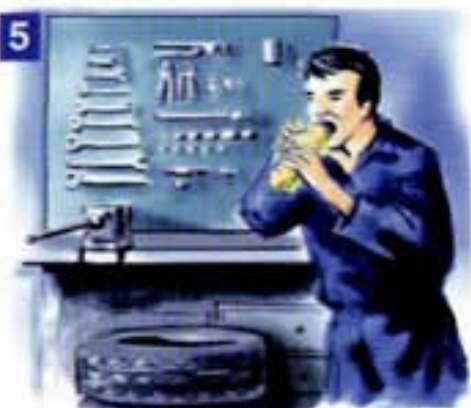
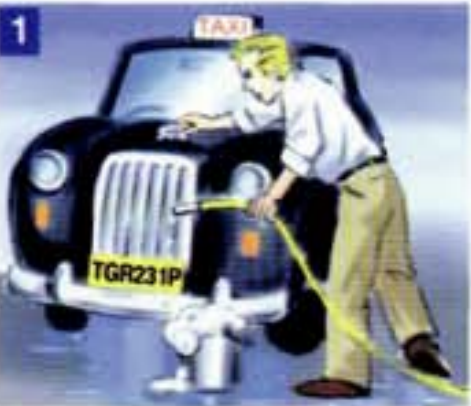
- The present continuous is used for temporary actions happening at or around the moment of speaking.



It's nine o'clock. Claire is still at home because she is ill. She **is wearing** her pyjamas and she **is sitting** on her bed. She **isn't working** today.

12

Look at the pictures and write sentences, as in the examples.



1 taxi driver / drive a taxi / wash the taxi

What does the taxi driver do?

He drives a taxi.

Is he driving a taxi now?

No, he isn't. He's washing the taxi.

2 nurse / look after patients / read a book

.....

3 maid / clean the house / talk on the phone

.....

4 vet / treat animals / listen to music

.....

5 mechanic / repair cars / eat a sandwich

.....

6 waiter / serve customers / read a newspaper

.....

Non-Continuous Verbs

Some verbs do not have continuous tenses. These include:

- ◆ **Verbs of the senses:** see, hear, feel, taste, smell. e.g. *This cake tastes delicious.* (NOT: ~~This cake is tasting delicious.~~)
- ◆ **Verbs of perception:** know, remember, forget, recognise, understand, notice, realise, seem, sound, think, etc. e.g. *I don't know his name.*
- ◆ **Verbs which express likes and dislikes:** love, like, hate, dislike, enjoy, etc. e.g. *Shirley loves jazz music.*
- ◆ **Other verbs:** include, matter, need, belong, cost, prefer, mean, own, appear, believe, want, have (=possess), etc. e.g. *That jacket costs a lot of money.* (NOT: ~~That jacket is costing a lot of money.~~)

13

Read the following dialogue between a hotel owner and the receptionist. Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.



- A: Good morning, Catherine. A special guest 1) ...*is coming*... (come) to our hotel today.
- B: Really! 2) (I/know) who it is?
- A: I 3) (think) you do. He 4) (star) in the TV series, 'Rooftop', at the moment.
- B: It 5) (be) Paul Roberts, isn't it? When 6) (he/come)? I can't wait to meet him in person!
- A: At 3 o'clock this afternoon. But there are a few things you 7) (need) to know. First of all, he 8) (love) flowers. He also 9) (enjoy) having his breakfast in the dining-room, not in his room.
- B: Why 10) (he/stay) at our hotel?
- A: Because he 11) (want) some peace and quiet and he 12) (not/like) to be disturbed by reporters.
- B: I see. Well, let's hope that everything will be okay while he 13) (stay) here.

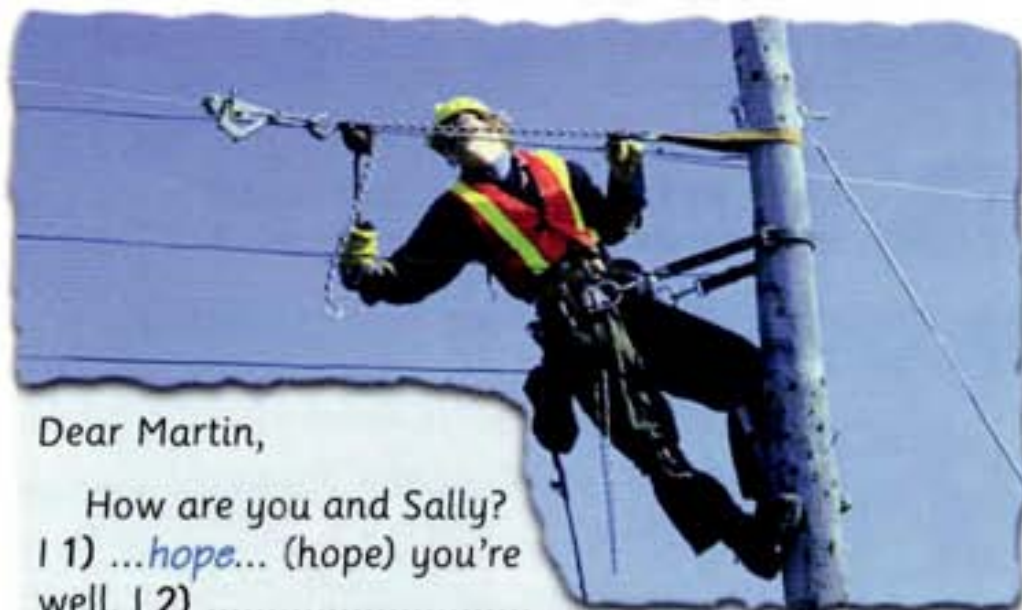
14

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

- 1 Jason ...*is not coming*... (not/come) with us this evening.
- 2 What (this sign/mean)?
- 3 We (usually/meet) at the sports centre every Wednesday afternoon.
- 4 Greg (train) for the next Olympic Games.
- 5 Michael Burns is very rich. He (own) a department store.
- 6 John and Mary (play) chess at the moment.
- 7 Peter (not/usually/have) eggs for breakfast.
- 8 My father (buy) a newspaper every day.
- 9 Mr and Mrs Dean (not/go) to Mexico tomorrow.
- 10 '..... (Pierre/speak) English?' 'No, but he (speak) French.'

15

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.



Dear Martin,

How are you and Sally?
I 1) ...*hope*... (hope) you're well. I 2) (write) to give you some good news. I have got a summer job for the holidays! I 3) (repair) telephone lines for a telephone company.
I 4) (usually/ride) my bicycle to work because it's only a ten minute ride from home. We 5) (start) work at 8:30. We 6) (finish) at 4:30 on Mondays to Thursdays, but at 2:30 on Fridays, so I 7) (have) long weekends.
I 8) (work) very hard at the moment. To tell you the truth, I 9) (be) a bit nervous because my boss 10) (leave) for Scotland on business next week, so I'll be on my own. Lizzie says I 11) (worry) about it too much. She's probably right!

Please write with your news. Say hello to Sally for me.

Best wishes,
Richard